

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An outsole assembly comprising:
an outsole having an inner surface including an opening; and
a footbed positioned over the inner surface of the outsole, the footbed having a lower surface including a plug configured to be inserted into the opening.
2. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the footbed is formed of a material having a first hardness characteristic that is less than an outsole material having a second hardness characteristic.
3. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the plug is formed of a material having a first hardness characteristic that is less than an outsole material having a second hardness characteristic.
4. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the footbed and the plug are formed of a material having substantially the same hardness characteristic.
5. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the outsole is formed of a material having an A-scale durometer hardness in a range between 60A and 100A.
6. The assembly of claim 5 wherein the footbed and the plug are formed of a material having an A-scale durometer hardness in a range between 30A and 60A.
7. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the opening is positioned in a heel region of the inner surface of the outsole.
8. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the plug includes a pedestal section and a cap section, the pedestal section being connected to the outer surface of the footbed.

10057503.012500

9. The assembly of claim 8 wherein the cap section includes an outer peripheral edge having an outer perimeter and an inner peripheral edge having an inner perimeter, the inner peripheral edge being connected to the pedestal section having a pedestal perimeter.

10. The assembly of claim 9 wherein the outer perimeter is the substantially same as the inner perimeter.

11. The assembly of claim 10 wherein the inner perimeter is larger than the pedestal perimeter.

12. The assembly of claim 11 wherein the inner peripheral edge forms a projecting lip when connected to the pedestal section.

13. The assembly of claim 12 wherein the opening of the outsole has:
an opening perimeter that is less than the inner perimeter; and
a corresponding matching perimeter for mating with the pedestal perimeter.

14. The assembly of claim 13 wherein the pedestal peripheral dimension mated with the opening peripheral dimension forms a watertight seal between the outsole and the footbed.

15. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the opening is an aperture that extends through to a walking surface of the outsole.

16. The assembly of claim 15 wherein the outsole has a walking surface including an indented surface corresponding to the inserted plug.

17. The assembly of claim 16 wherein the indented surface is a non-contact surface with a walking ground.

18. A method comprising:

providing an outsole having an inner surface including an opening; and
positioning a footbed over the inner surface of the outsole, the footbed having
an outer surface including a plug configured to be inserted into the opening.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising forming the footbed using a
material having a first hardness characteristic that is less than an outsole material having a
second hardness characteristic.

20. The method of claim 18 further comprising forming the plug using a material
having a first hardness characteristic that is less than an outsole material having a second
hardness characteristic.

21. The method of claim 18 further comprising using a material having an A-scale
durometer hardness in a range between 60A and 100A for the outsole.

22. The method of claim 18 further comprising using a material having an A-scale
durometer hardness in a range between 30A and 60A for the footbed and the plug.

23. The method of claim 18 further comprising positioned the opening in a heel
region in the inner surface of the outsole.

24. The method of claim 18 further comprising providing a pedestal section and a
cap section in the plug wherein the pedestal section is connected to the outer surface of the
footbed.

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising forming a projecting lip by
connecting the cap section to the pedestal section.

26. A footwear assembly comprising:
an upper;
an outsole assembly attached to the upper, the outsole assembly including:

an outsole having an inner surface including an opening; and
a footbed positioned over the inner surface of the outsole, the footbed
having a lower surface including a plug configured to be inserted into the opening; and
an insole attached to the outsole.

27. The footwear assembly of claim 26 wherein the footbed is formed of a
material having a first hardness characteristic that is less than an outsole material having a
second hardness characteristic.

10057503 012502